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Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Address by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Jeremić** (Serbia), President of the General Assembly, said that the Second and Third Committees should continue to improve their cooperation and coordination, as their mandates included a number of vital and interrelated issues. Unsustainable agricultural practices, low productivity, reduced investment, land degradation, water scarcity and climate change had combined to create chronic supply shortfalls, affecting the output of several vulnerable Member States. The Committee should focus its efforts on implementing the principles set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome on 18 and 19 November 2009 and, in particular, the comprehensive twin-track approach to food security, which combined immediate action with medium- and long-term development programmes.

2. Turning to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, he said that United Nations operational activities should retain their universal and voluntary nature while also becoming more responsive to the needs of developing countries. The Secretary-General's recommendations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/67/320-E/2012/89) set out a thorough analysis of the issues at hand. The Second Committee should devise strategies to ensure that recipient countries received more coherent and cost-effective support services. The reports of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/67/184) and on the modalities of the financing for development follow-up process (A/67/353) marked an important step towards establishing a more development-centric approach to global economic governance.

3. The Group of 20 had come to play an increasingly important role in global economic affairs despite continuing questions as to its transparency, inclusivity and legitimacy. The General Assembly, which was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all Member States, could play an important role in filling the gap; but it must, nevertheless, engage with the Group. He therefore intended to begin a process leading to the establishment of a consultative framework including the Assembly, the Group of 20 and, possibly, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In accordance with resolution 66/256, it would be useful to convene an informal high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on global economic governance in order to discuss the modalities of further cooperation and address some of the issues to be discussed by the Group at its upcoming summit.

4. The draft resolution on the follow-up to the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/C.2/67/L.25), which was currently before the Committee, provided for the holding of a follow-up conference on the world financial and economic crisis in May 2013. He hoped that, if Member States so wished, his proposal for a consultative framework could be discussed at that forum. His initiative was intended to provide members of the Group of 20 and other States alike with an opportunity to express their views, and the General Assembly was the most appropriate forum for such a debate.

5. On 7 November 2013, the General Assembly had been briefed on the outcomes of two meetings held by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which had been established at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Member States had shown a spirit of inclusivity and transparency, and the discussion had been interactive in nature. It was his understanding that such briefings would likely be conducted after each subsequent meeting of the High-level Panel. One of the key questions raised had been how the tasks set forth by the High-level Panel related to the mandate conferred on the General Assembly by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, particularly with regard to the sustainable development goals. It was critically important to enhance coordination among the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Secretariat and other institutional stakeholders. The work of the United Nations system must be mutually reinforcing and avoid duplication. The General Assembly's key tasks included establishing a high-level forum and an intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals. He intended to appoint facilitators with that end in mind.

6. The Assembly also had the task of convening a working group to establish a list of sustainable development goals. Regrettably, Member States had failed to agree on the regional distribution of seats by the deadline determined at the Conference. He urged Member States to reach consensus as soon as possible;

failure to do so would jeopardize the outcomes of the Conference. A solution to the deadlock would be essential in order to formulate a single development agenda beyond 2015.

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.35: Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

7. **Mr. Mammadaliyev** (Azerbaijan), introducing the draft resolution, said that Australia had joined the list of sponsors. The Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project was intended to improve the connection of Central Eurasia to the international information and communication technology system by establishing a new major transit route between the two major internet exchange points of Frankfurt and Hong Kong. The Super Highway would improve internet connectivity in the developing world, facilitate the development of applications for emerging economies and provide multimedia and cloud computing services to expanding markets. The project had already received the backing of relevant international organizations, but required broader political support in order to advance the global connectivity agenda.

8. **The Chair** said that Georgia and Uzbekistan had become sponsors.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.34: Entrepreneurship for development

9. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel), introducing the draft resolution, said that Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Monaco, Papua New Guinea and Ukraine had joined the list of sponsors. Entrepreneurship played an important role in promoting sustainable development by providing skills and opportunities, which in turn led to innovation, job creation and ultimately better economic, social and environmental conditions. By supporting the draft resolution, Member States could ensure that entrepreneurship became a driver of the development agenda beyond 2015.

Agenda item 61: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.33: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

10. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, said that Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution reflected the findings in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/67/91-E/2012/13) that the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to deepen the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people and was associated with illegal exploitation of its natural resources.

11. **The Chair** said that Burundi and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had joined the list of sponsors.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.